

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Norbert Abels and Claus H. Backes)
Serial No. Not yet known) Art Unit
Confirmation No. Not yet known) Not yet known
Filed: February 6, 2004)
For: SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS)
INCLUDING A METAL LIGATION COVER)
HINGEDLY CONNECTED TO A BRACKET BASE)
Examiner: Not yet known)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22310-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

Statement of References Previously Disclosed
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d)

Copies of the cited references are not enclosed because, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in application number 09/952,584, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and/or they are U.S. patents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the U.S. patent application and therefore no fee is required.

DATED this 6th day of February 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Guynn
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 36,153
Customer No. 022913

JMG:mla

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 BRACKET BASE

Att'y Docket No. 7678.599.1
 Group: Not yet known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANT

U.S. Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
____ 1	5,857,849	01/12/99	Kurz
____ 2	4,712,999	12/15/87	Rosenberg
____ 3	5,474,445	12/12/95	Voudouris
____ 4	5,562,444	10/08/96	Heiser et al.
____ 5	5,711,666	01/27/98	Hanson
____ 6	6,169,429	01/02/01	Brown
____ 7	5,269,681	12/14/93	Degnan
____ 8	4,355,975	10/26/82	Fujita
____ 9	2,011,575	08/20/35	Ford
____ 10	3,128,552	04/14/64	Broussard
____ 11	3,748,740	07/31/73	Wildman
____ 12	3,854,207	12/17/74	Wildman
____ 13	4,077,126	03/07/78	Pletcher

Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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____ 14	4,103,423	08/01/78	Kessel
____ 15	4,144,642	03/20/79	Wallshein
____ 16	4,171,568	10/23/79	Förster
____ 17	4,180,912	01/01/80	Kesling
____ 18	4,279,593	07/21/81	Röhlcke
____ 19	4,371,337	02/01/83	Pletcher
____ 20	4,419,078	12/06/83	Pletcher
____ 21	4,492,573	01/08/85	Hanson
____ 22	4,527,975	07/09/85	Ghafari et al.
____ 23	4,559,012	12/17/85	Pletcher
____ 24	4,559,013	12/17/85	Amstutz et al.
____ 25	4,597,739	07/01/86	Rosenberg
____ 26	4,614,497	09/30/86	Kurz
____ 27	4,634,662	01/06/87	Rosenberg
____ 28	4,655,708	04/07/87	Fujita
____ 29	4,687,441	08/18/87	Klepacki
____ 30	4,698,017	10/06/87	Hanson
____ 31	4,712,999	12/15/87	Rosenberg

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____ 32	4,786,252	11/22/88	Fujita
____ 33	4,846,681	07/11/89	Mourany et al.
____ 34	4,850,865	07/25/89	Napolitano
____ 35	4,913,654	04/03/90	Morgan et al.
____ 36	5,037,296	08/06/91	Karwoski
____ 37	5,062,794	11/05/91	Miura
____ 38	5,078,596	01/07/92	Carberry et al.
____ 39	5,094,614	03/10/92	Wildman
____ 40	5,125,832	06/30/92	Kesling
____ 41	5,160,260	11/03/92	Chang
____ 42	5,161,969	11/10/92	Pospisil et al.
____ 43	5,174,754	12/29/92	Meritt
____ 44	5,224,858	07/06/93	Hanson
____ 45	5,275,557	01/04/94	Damon
____ 46	5,322,435	06/21/94	Pletcher
____ 47	5,344,315	09/06/94	Hanson
____ 48	5,380,197	01/10/95	Hanson
____ 49	5,456,599	10/10/95	Hanson

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____ 50	5,470,228	11/28/95	Franseen et al.
____ 51	5,474,445	12/12/95	Voudouris
____ 52	5,474,446	12/12/95	Wildman et al.
____ 53	5,556,276	09/17/96	Roman et al.
____ 54	5,562,444	10/08/96	Heiser et al.
____ 55	5,586,882	12/24/96	Hanson
____ 56	5,630,715	05/20/97	Voudouris
____ 57	5,630,716	05/20/97	Hanson
____ 58	5,685,711	11/11/97	Hanson
____ 59	5,711,666	01/27/98	Hanson
____ 60	5,738,513	04/14/98	Hermann
____ 61	5,857,849	01/12/99	Kurz
____ 62	5,863,199	01/26/99	Wildman
____ 63	5,885,074	03/23/99	Hanson
____ 64	5,906,486	05/25/99	Hanson
____ 65	5,964,589	10/12/99	Musich
____ 66	6,017,118	01/25/00	Gasvoda et al.
____ 67	6,071,119	06/06/00	Christoff et al.

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____ 68	6,042,373	03/28/00	Hermann
____ 69	6,042,374	03/28/00	Farzin-Nia et al.
____ 70	3,218,71	11/23/65	Wallshein
____ 71	3,724,074	04/03/73	Wallshein
____ 72	4,859,179	08/22/89	Kesling
____ 73	5,429,499	07/04/95	Sernetz

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner <u>Initial*</u>	Document <u>Number</u>	Publication <u>Date</u>	Country or <u>Patent Office</u>
____ 74	DE 1 184 451	12/31/64	Germany
____ 75	DE 296 08 349 U1	07/11/96	Germany
____ 76	DT 23 57 573	05/22/75	Germany
____ 77	G 91 12 872.2	03/19/92	Germany
____ 78	WO 94/00072	06/01/94	PCT
____ 79	WO 00/33760	06/15/00	PCT
____ 80	EP 0 714 639 A2	05/06/96	EP
____ 81	EP 0 714 639 A3	05/03/96	EPO
____ 82	WO 00/76419	12/21/00	PCT

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Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

Examiner

Initial*

 83 Konstruieren mit unststoffen, Gunter, Erhard, Carl Hanser Verlag München Wien,
pp. 314-329, 1999

References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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